Under utilisation of funds for rural employment schemes

2382. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether, after **a** review of the implementation process of rural employment schemes in various States, the Ministry has found that the pace of utilisation in 13 States is below average;

(b) if so, whether States have utilized only Rs. 30.57 crore, out of the Rs. 132.12 crore allotted so far;

(c) if so, which States have not utilized the funds; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) to (d) Review of implementation of rural employment schemes is a continuous process. The Ministry of Rural Development has developed a comprehensive system of monitoring the implementation and impact of the Programmes as per guidelines, including utilization of funds, through Periodical Progress Reports, Performance Review Committee Meetings, Area Officer's Scheme and National Level Monitor and Vigilance and Monitoring Committees at the State/Districts Level, with greater involvement of Members of Parliament and other elected representatives.

National Old-age Pension Scheme

2383. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise number of old-age pensioners being benefited under the National Old-age Pension Scheme;

(b) whether Government propose to increase the number of beneficiaries under the Scheme;